

LSFF London Spanish Film Festival

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

18-25 September 2024

at Ciné Lumière and Riverside Studios

PRESS RELEASE

8 August 2024

We are delighted to announce the program of our 20th edition, which includes several UK premieres and a selection of some of the most exciting productions from all corners of Spain, including special sections on Basque, Catalan and Galician cinema, showing the wealth of Spain in terms of culture and talent. Feature films in the main program are in competition for a Best Film award, which will be decided by a Jury to be announced shortly.

Our selection includes several documentaries, a very special animation film, treasures from the archives and two special screenings: a co-production with Argentina and the UK premiere of *The Wasp*, a US production directed by London-based Spanish writer and director Guillem Morales, who will return to this festival years after his acclaimed *Julia's Eyes*.

In partnership with SEMINCI, Valladolid International Film Week and the Instituto Cervantes, and digging into the archives, we are proud to present a small section, Memory and Utopy, reflecting on the importance of our filmic legacy. As part of this section, two films by women filmmakers, the Spaniard Ana Mariscal and the Mexican Maite Landeta. The fact that they were pioneers in a field dominated by men and their different sensibilities links perfectly with the documentary *Arnasa Betean*, a Basque jewel looking at the cinema made by women, including particular visions and challenges.

Over the course of eight days we'll be celebrating Spanish cinema and its talent at Ciné Lumière and Riverside Studios with several guests appearances including filmmakers, actors, producers and costume designers.

This is a very special edition as we celebrate 20 years offering to London audiences, consistently and uninterruptedly, a window into Spain, its culture, its cinema and its talented artists.

Contact for more details: press@tristanamedia.com

PROGRAM

* Films in competition for the Best Film Award

CORE PROGRAM (Full film details below)

- *PAJAROS | Birds Flying East, by Pau Durà
Followed by a Q&A with the director and Fosca Films' producer David Ciurana
- *TRATAMOS DEMASIADO BIEN A LAS MUJERES | We Treat Women Too Well, by Clara Bilbao
Followed by a Q&A with the director
- RIQUENI, by Francisco Bech
- *QUE NADIE DUERMA | Something Is About to Happen, by Antonio Méndez Esparza
Followed by a Q&A with costume designer Clara Bilbao
- *AMANECE, by Juan Francisco Viruega
Followed by a Q&A with the director
- *ON THE GO, by María G. Royo and Julia de Castro
Followed by a Q&A with the directors
- LA PRIMERA MIRADA | The First Look, by Luis E. Parés
Followed by a Q&A with the director
- *LOS PEQUENOS AMORES| Little Loves, by Celia Rico Clavellino
Followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers (TBC)
- MAPA A PANDATARIA | Map to Pandataria, by Javi Clarke
Followed by a Q&A with Cayetana Guillén Cuervo and choreographer Chevi Muraday
- RIOJA, TIERRA DE LOS MIL VINOS | Rioja, Land of A Thousand Wines, by José Luis López Linares
- ESTA AMBICION DESMEDIDA | This Excessive Ambition, by Cristina Trenas, Santos Bacana, Rogelio González
Followed by a Q&A (guests TBC)

BASQUE WINDOW

- EL SUEÑO DE LA SULTANA | Sultana's Dream, by Isabel Herguera
- ARNASA BETEAN | A pulmón | A Deep Breath, Women Filmmakers, by Rosa Zufia, Bertha Gaztelumendi
- *NEGU HURBILAK, by Negu Collective, Mikel Ibarguren, Ekain Albite

CATALAN WINDOW

*CAIDA LIBRE | Free Falling, by Laura Jou Followed by a Q&A with the director

*EL MAESTRO QUE PROMETIO EL MAR |
The Teacher Who Promised the Sea,
by Patricia Font Followed by a Q&A with the director

LETTERS FROM GALICIA

*JUSTICIA ARTIFICIAL | Artificial Justice,
by Simón Casal Followed by a Q&A with the director (TBC)

*O CORNO | The Rye Horn,
by Jaione Camborda Followed by a Q&A with lead actress Janet
Novás and Adriana Páramo (Galician Film
Forum)

SALVAXE, SALVAXE | Wild, Wild,
by Emilio Fonseca Followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker and
Adriana Páramo (Galician Film Forum)

SHORT LETTERS FROM GALICIA, A selection of shorts

HABITAR | Shelter, by Anxos Fazáns

VÉXOTE, by Oscar Pardo Cartelle

TO BIRD OR NOT TO BIRD, by Martín Romero

NON TE VEXO | *No te veo* | I Can't See You, by Xacio Baño

QUEIMAR CANDO MORRA | *Quemar cuando muera* | Burn When I Die, by Inés Pintor Sierra

ALGUÉN ME CHAMOU SERPE NEGRA | Alguien me llamó serpiente negra | Someone Called
Me Black Snake, by Borja Santomé Rodríguez

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

ALEMANIA | Germany, by María Zanetti

THE WASP | US, by Guillem Morales

Followed by a Q&A with the director

MEMORY AND UTOPIA

LA PRIMERA MIRADA | The First Look,
by Luis E. Parés

Followed by a Q&A with the director

EL CAMINO | The Road, by Ana Mariscal

TROTACALLES | Streetwalker, by Matilde Landeta

The LONDON SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL is organised by TRISTANA MEDIA LTD.

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PROXECTA

PROGRAM DETAILS

CORE PROGRAM

*PAJAROS | Birds Flying East

dir. Pau Durà, with Javier Gutiérrez, Luis Zahera, Teresa Saponangelo | Spain/Romania | 2024 | 100 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish, Italian, Catalan, Hungarian and Romanian with English subtitles

Colombo works at a parking lot and tops up his meager wages by selling weed. Mario is a lawyer and a keen birdwatcher whom, due to a past accident, is unable to drive. Mario offers to pay Colombo to drive him from Valencia to a lake in Spain's Costa Brava, where he wants to see some cranes. Upon reaching the lake, Mario tells Colombo that the birds have changed their migratory route and are now going to nest in the Danube delta in Constanza, Romania... Much more than a trans-European road movie blending comedy and drama, *Pájaros* is about two men who are lost but who get to know and to help themselves and each other along the way. The performances by Gutiérrez and Zahera as perfectly flawed anti-heroes attempting to escape their lives are simply wonderful.

Followed by a Q&A with the director and Fosca Films' producer David Ciurana

Thu 19 Sep | 6.00pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

*TRATAMOS DEMASIADO BIEN A LAS MUJERES | We Treat Women Too Well

dir. Clara Bilbao, with Carmen Machi, Antonio de la Torre, Julián Villagrán, Isak Férriz, Oscar Ladoire, Ayax Pedrosa | Spain/France | 2024 | 96 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Set against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War's end, this film is an adaptation of Raymond Queneau's 1947 pulp novel *We Always Treat Women Too Well*. A compelling Carmen Machi plays an ultra-fascist, borderline psychopath, who is to marry a fascist comander. On her own she will manage to achieve the bloody elimination of a group of uncoordinated and naive Republican soldiers who have occupied the local post office of the small town. She will achieve this partly exploiting male sexual desire and their idea of a woman's fragility. Best known as a costume designer, Clara Bilbao's debut film is a very dark comedy but also a powerful and daring anti-war satire.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Thu 19 Sep | 8.00pm | Riverside Studios

RIQUENI

dir. Francisco Bech, with Rafael Riqueni, Antonio Canales, Pepe Habichuela, Rocío Molina | Spain | 2023 | doc | 135 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Seville-born Francisco Bech has always been deeply connected to the music scene in his hometown. In 2011, he agreed with Rafael Riqueni to document the recording of his upcoming album.

Unexpected circumstances turned this project into a much longer journey than initially planned, with the documentary's filming only concluding in 2023. Throughout these years, Bech faithfully followed Riqueni's journey back to the stage, eventually becoming his manager. Bech's documentary immerses viewers in the highs and lows of one of the greatest maestros in the history of flamenco guitar, whose music, influenced by both jazz and classical genres, has earned him international acclaim.

Sat 21 Sep | 3.30pm | Ciné Lumière II | £18, £16 conc.

***QUE NADIE DUERMA | Something Is About to Happen**

dir. Antonio Méndez Esparza, with Malena Alterio, Rodrigo Poisón, Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, José Luis Torrijo | Spain/Romania | 2023 | 122 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Lucía, a middle-aged single woman working as an IT programmer, faces a challenging situation when she loses her job in a struggling market. Deciding to take a drastic turn in her life, she buys a taxi and its license. In her new role as a taxi driver, she encounters a variety of interesting people and discovers a newfound freedom and confidence she never imagined. This transformation is superbly depicted through the costumes designed by Clara Bilbao. Based on the novel by Juan José Millás, Méndez Esparza takes us on a suspenseful journey through the streets of Madrid. Malena Alterio's portrayal of Lucía has earned her several Best Actress awards.

Followed by a Q&A with costume designer Clara Bilbao

Fri 20 Sep | 8.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

***AMANECE**

dir. Juan Francisco Viruega, with Aura Garrido, Iria del Río, Isabel Ampudia, Antonio Araque | Spain | 2023 | 90 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Juan Francisco Viruega's opera prima first follows Alba as she returns to her hometown after a romantic breakup, and then Candela, the sister who stayed home by the side of their now terminally ill mother. Together, Alba and Candela will confront and heal childhood wounds as they accompany their mother in her last days. The striking Almería desert and sea serve as both a backdrop and a silent witness, almost like another character in the film. "Amanece" (Sunrise) is an intimate exploration of the emotions experienced when revisiting childhood places, resolving past conflicts, and finding the healing power of acceptance, leading to light and a new beginning.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Sat 21 Sep | 3.45pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

***ON THE GO**

dir. María G. Royo, Julia de Castro, with Julia de Castro, Omar Ayuso, Manuel de Blas, Chacha Huang, Jordi Roig | Spain | 2023 | 72 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Milagros stretches a carefree youth in her last years of fertility, while Jonathan is addicted to Grindr and seeking vengeance to overcome abandonment issues. Despite being unemployed, Milagros is determined to be a mother. That's why she arrives to Seville in her father's '67 Corvair with the intention of persuading Jonathan to be her sperm donor and thus starting a delirious trip alongside a young woman picked on the road, called Queen of Triana and who claims to be a mermaid in urgent need of getting to the sea. More than a freewheeling road movie, *On the Go* is an adventure full of fun, music, dance, sex and stunning Andalusian landscapes.

Followed by a Q&A with the directors

Enjoy a beer after the screening with the compliments of Alhambra

Sat 21 Sep | 6.00pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

LA PRIMERA MIRADA | The First Look

dir. Luis E. Parés, with Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, Pedro Casablanc | Spain | 2023 | 74 min | doc | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

In a country destroyed by a civil war and in the midst of a dictatorship a film school was created. Against any intention by the regime, it became a space of freedom. The dream only lasted fifteen years, but it changed forever the history of Spanish cinema giving some of its greatest directors: Juan Antonio Bardem, Luis García Berlanga, Carlos Saura, Víctor Erice, Basilio Martín Patino, José Luis Borau... The practice exercises of the students are still in the archives of the School. Parés makes a formidable exercise himself with the archival material helping understand the greatness of the dreams of those filmmaking students observing the modernisation process of a country ravaged by many traumas.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Sun 22 Sep | 4.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

*LOS PEQUENOS AMORES | Little Loves

dir. Celia Rico Clavellino, with Adriana Ozores, María Vázquez, Aimar Vega | Spain/France | 2024 | 95 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Teresa changes her holiday plans to help her mother, who has had a minor accident. Mother and daughter will spend a stifling summer together, unable to agree on even the most trivial things. However, their forced coexistence will bring to the surface unexpected issues, bringing Teresa to experience revealing moments with her mother. Considered one of the greatest talents in Spanish cinema today, Celia Rico brings us with her second feature film a honest and profound portrait of the relationship between a mother and a daughter in its small gestures. The intense but subtle performances by Adriana Ozores and María Vázquez as mother and daughter are simply flawless.

Followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers (TBC)

Sun 22 Sep | 6.20pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

MAPA A PANDATARIA | Map to Pandataria

dir. Javi Clarke, with Cayetana Guillén Cuervo, Chevi Muraday, La Merce, Basem Nahnou, Okuda San Miguel, Elio Toffana, Gemma Cuervo, El Langui | Spain | 2024 | 97 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Now best known as Ventotene, Pandataria is a small island in the Tyrrhenian Sea historically used by the Romans to exile high society adulteresses, nonconforming women, and those who amassed too much power or influence. Centuries later, Mussolini imprisoned political dissidents there.

"Pandataria" is also the title of a show by an independent dance company that explores the island's history, reclaiming it as a symbol of diversity and feminism. *Map to Pandataria* documents the company's exciting yet complicated journey as they navigate various complications, including the challenge of premiering at the historic Roman theater of Mérida.

Followed by a Q&A with Cayetana Guillén Cuervo and Chevi Muraday

Wed 25 Sep | 6.00pm | Ciné Lumière I | £18, £16 conc.

RIOJA, TIERRA DE LOS MIL VINOS | Rioja, Land of a Thousand Wines

dir. José Luis López Linares, with Tim Atkin, Javier Arizcuren, Andrés Conde, Alvaro Palacios | Spain | 2023 | doc | 101 min | In Spanish with English subtitles

This documentary offers a comprehensive look at the vibrant evolution of the Spanish wine industry, showing the interaction between new generations and the historic wineries of Rioja. Through captivating photography, careful editing and immersive music, the documentary delves into the essence of this region's wine, bridging its rich tradition and promising future and highlighting the relationship between its origins and the powerful appeal it holds on the international scene. Veteran filmmaker and cinematographer López Linares offers gorgeous landscapes, discerning contributions by makers and experts as well as a unique insight into the wine making process that will make you want to explore more.

Followed by a wine tasting (TBC)

Tue 24 Sep | 6.15pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

ESTA AMBICION DESMEDIDA

This Excessive Ambition

dir. Cristina Trenas, Santos Bacana, Rogelio González, with C. Tangana | Spain | 2023 | doc | 125 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Billed as “not a tour, not a documentary” but “a tragedy in three acts”, *This Excessive Ambition* is a unique look at the life and work of multifaceted Spanish musician C. Tangana. The directors follow the unconventional artist for well over four years, from the roaring success of his album “El Madrileño”, which garnered more than 2 billion streams worldwide. A privileged and eye-opening insight into the music industry, the frenzy of a tour, and the challenges, frustrations and gratifications faced by C. Tangana and his team, the film also delves into his creativity, craft, determination and ability interact with other artists. Definitely more than a documentary, *This Excessive Ambition* is a fresh and exciting cinematic experience.

Followed by a Q&A

Join us from 7.15pm for a beer with the compliments of Alhambra

Wed 25 Sep | 8.25pm | Ciné Lumière I | £18, £16 conc.

BASQUE WINDOW

EL SUEÑO DE LA SULTANA | Sultana's Dream

dir. Isabel Herguera | Spain | 2023 | 80 min | animation | In English, Spanish, Basque and Italian with English subtitles

Inspired by a feminist science fiction story written by Rokeya Hossain in 1905 in Bengal, Inés embarks on a journey through India searching for the traces of Ladyland, a utopian country for women. Herguera's unconventional story, which partly mirrors her own journey, includes fictional and real characters, such as philosopher Paul B. Preciado and English scholar Mary Beard, who have lent their voices to the film. In her debut feature film, veteran animator Herguera employs watercolour-style animation combined with the Mehndi technique, usually associated to henna temporary skin decorations, achieving strikingly beautiful results.

Sun 22 Sep | 12.15am | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

ARNASA BETEAN | A pulmón | A Deep Breath, Women Filmmakers

dir. Rosa Zufia, Bertha Gaztelumendi, with Ana Díez, Arantxa Echevarría, María Elorza, Ana Murugarren, Helena Taberna | Spain | 2023 | 75 min | doc | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Basque and Spanish with English subtitles

Guided by three female divers, *Arnasa Betea*n is an immersion into the world of a number of women filmmakers. They are Basque, but the vision is universal: the stories of their films, their visions, their dreams, their efforts, the challenges they face and their contribution to cinema as a whole. The directors expertly weave the divers' journeys with film extracts and testimonials capturing the spirit of female cinematic creatives and their enduring quest for recognition and equality.

Mon 23 Sep | 6.20pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

***NEGU URBILAK**

dir. Negu Collective, Mikel Ibarburen, Ekain Albite, with Anita, Beñardo, Kitxa | Spain | 2023 | 90 min | cert. PG | In Basque and Spanish with English subtitles

In 2011, when ETA announced the definitive cessation of its armed activity in Spain, a young woman arrives to Zubieta, a small village by the Bidassoa river and the border with France. She wants to cross the border but, waiting for the sign, she will have to wait much longer than expected. In this isolated place, time, scopes and perspectives begin to blur. *Negu Hurbilak* is a powerful and unconventional project exploring the consequences of having to bear silence and the cost of working under secrecy, including the disappearance of individual identity as well as family and

emotional ties. The directing credit of Negu Collective keeps the consistency between the production of the film and its story, the ruins of the Basque conflict.

Mon 23 Sep | 8.20pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

CATALAN WINDOW

*CAIDA LIBRE | Free Falling

dir. Laura Jou, with Belén Rueda, Mariia Netavrovana, Irene Escolar, Ilay Kurelovic, Manuela Vellés | Spain | 2024 | 89 min | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Marisol's life seems perfect, mirroring the precision of her technique. Once a national rhythmic gymnast, she is now a demanding coach, expecting nothing less than perfection from Ukrainian newcomer Angelica as the World Championship approaches. Methodical, controlling, and authoritarian, Marisol disregards feelings and demands the same perfection from her husband, Octavio, only to discover he's having affair. Laura Jou's second feature film is emotionally tense and complex. It not only delves into pain and frustration, but also the courage of a woman confronting life's challenges, exploring her resilience against societal expectations of success. The film maintains a thrilling pace that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is produced by the acclaimed Juan Antonio Bayona.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Wed 18 Sep | 6.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

*EL MAESTRO QUE PROMETIO EL MAR | The Teacher Who Promised the Sea|

dir. Patricia Font, with Enric Auquer, Laia Costa, Luisa Gavasa | Spain | 2023 | 105 min | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish and Catalan with English subtitles

Ariadna discovers that her grandfather has long been searching for the remains of his father, who disappeared during the Spanish Civil War. Determined to help him, she travels to Burgos, where a mass grave is being exhumated and where he could possibly be buried. During her stay in Burgos she will learn the story of Antoni Benaiges, a young teacher from Tarragona who was her grandfather's schoolmaster before the war. Using an innovative pedagogical method that involved producing small publications, Antoni inspired his students and made them a promise: he would take them to see the sea. Based on a book by Francesc Escribano, which in turn is based on real events, Patricia Font's second feature film is a moving story lead by two outstanding actors and weaving memory, loss and the tragedies of the Spanish Civil War.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Tue 24 Sep | 8.20pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

LETTERS FROM GALICIA

In collaboration with Galician Film Forum, Proxecta and the support of AGADIC

*JUSTICIA ARTIFICIAL | Artificial Justice

dir. Simón Casal, with Verónica Echegui, Alberto Ammann, Tamar Novas, Alba Galocha | Spain | 2024 | 94 min | UK premiere | Cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles

In the near future, the Government aims to replace judges with Artificial Intelligence software, pledging to effectively automate and depoliticise the justice system. Carmen Costa, a distinguished judge, has been invited to assess this new procedure. However, when the software's creator is found dead, she realizes her life is in danger and that she will have to fight the powerful interests that are at play in the highest echelons of the State. Galician Simón Casal takes the debate the boundaries of Artificial Intelligence one step further in a gripping thriller of political conspiracies.

Enjoy a beer after the screening with the compliments of Alhambra

Wed 18 Sep | 8.30pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

*O CORNO | The Rye Horn

dir. Jaione Camborda, with Janet Novás, Siobhan Fernandes, Carla Rivas, Daniela Hernán Marchán, María Lado | Spain/Portugal/Belgium | 2023 | 105 min | cert. XXXX | In Galician, Portuguese and Spanish with English subtitles

In 1971, in the Galician countryside, María assists women in childbirth. After an attempt to help a young woman in trouble, she suddenly must hide from the authorities, leaving everything behind and flee to Portugal via an old smugglers' route. Camborda, whom also wrote the script, explores in *O corno* female solidarity, the relationship between our body and our decisions, and women's ability to conceive and give birth. Beautifully shot, the film won the Golden Seashell at the San Sebastián Film Festival and lead actress Janet Novás the Best New Actress Goya Award.

Followed by a Q&A with lead actress Janet Novás and Adriana Páramo, from the Galician Film Forum

Sun 22 Sep | 6.00pm | Riverside Studios

SALVAXE, SALVAXE | Wild, Wild

dir. Emilio Fonseca | Spain | 2024 | doc | 86 min | In Galician with English subtitles

Emilio Fonseca's camera delves into the Galician-Portuguese mountains, tracking images and absences of the native Iberian wolf. This film-essay searches justice and investigates the story of a relationship charged with subjugation and extermination, creating simulacrum images of the wild natural. Rather an anti-documentary, *Salvaxes*, *Salvaxes* offers us wolves that look at the camera terrified and humans that howl, where all creatures leave traces. Fonseca's is a fascinating work using new and unconventional ways to explore the relationship between humans and non-humans.

Followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker and Adriana Páramo, from the Galician Film Forum

Mon 23 Sep | 6.00pm | Riverside Studios

SHORT LETTERS FROM GALICIA

HABITAR | Shelter

dir. Anxos Fazáns | Spain | 2023 | doc | 15 min | UK premiere | In Galician with English subtitles
What is home? Can a body become a shelter? *Shelter* tries to answer these questions about the construction of our identities through the intimate portraits of transgender and non-binary people from Galicia.

VÉXOTE

dir. Oscar Pardo Cartelle, with Xúlio Abonjo, Marta Lado, Fran Lareu | Spain | 2023 | 20 min | In Galician with English subtitles

David and Lola are going to spend a few days at their friend Marcos' rural house. In the middle of nature they seek to meet and see each other, to leave behind the sadness that accompanies Lola.

TO BIRD OR NOT TO BIRD

dir. Martín Romero | Spain | 2023 | 9 min | animation | In Galician with English subtitles

To bird or not to bird, that is the question. A critical and kaleidoscopic view of the current world told through the tragicomic and grotesque experiences of some birds.

NON TE VEXO | *No te veo* | I Can't See You

dir. Xacio Baño | Spain | 2023 | 13 min | doc | In Galician with English subtitles

One Mississippi, two Mississippis, three Mississippis.

QUEIMAR CANDO MORRA | *Quemar cuando muera* | Burn When I Die

dir. Inés Pintor Sierra | Spain | 2024 | 13 min | doc | In Galician with English subtitles

"Burn when I die, recite Our Father and throw it to the fire". That's what a package I found in my grandma's wardrobe said when she passed away. Before burning it, the objects we discovered made me think about my family, about shared memories. About what was life like for women and how it has changed.

ALGUÉN ME CHAMOU SERPE NEGRA | Alguien me llamó serpiente negra | Someone Called Me Black Snake

dir. Borja Santomé Rodríguez | Spain | 2024 | 10 min | animation | In Galician with English subtitles

A hypnotic film blurring the boundaries between reality and fantasy. Through a series of captivating visual and sound experiments, it takes you on a journey into the unknown, where enigmatic silhouettes wander through city and coastal landscapes, fueled by a thirst for adventure.

Tue 24 Sep | 6.30pm | Ciné Lumière II | £15, £13 conc.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

ALEMANIA | Germany

dir. María Zanetti, with Maite Aguilar, María Ucedo, Miranda de la Serna, Vicky Peña, Walter Jakob | Argentina/Spain | 2023 | 87 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Sixteen year-old Lola is determined and studying hard in the hope of spending a semester in Germany. Despite her enthusiasm, her family faces significant challenges: her older sister's mental illness and financial difficulties, making them reluctant to support her plans. Maria Zanetti's debut feature film is a masterful immersion in a teenager's world: Lola's struggles with school, family,

friends, ambitions and love. Moving and light at the same time, Zanetti's film also offers a profound exploration of mental illness from the perspective of a younger sister who both admires and realizes she cannot rely on her sibling as a role model.

Fri 20 Sep | 6.00pm | Riverside Studios

THE WASP

dir. Guillem Morales, with Naomie Harris, Natalie Dormer, Dominic Allburn | US | 2024 | 96 min | cert. 18 | UK premiere | In English

Heather's marriage to the demanding and domineering Simon is strained by her inability to conceive. Following a disastrous dinner party, she reaches out to a former schoolmate, Carla, who is heavily pregnant and living in a much less privileged economic situation. As their reunion unfolds and Heather's purpose is made clear, events take a dramatic and unexpected turn. After the success of *Julia's Eyes*, Spanish filmmaker Guillem Morales once again astonishes audiences with a US-produced, UK-based psychological thriller, *The Wasp*. Based on Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's play of the same title, Morales explores the depths of childhood traumas, emotional scars, and mental issues, providing a rich canvas for the lead actresses to showcase their talents under his direction.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Tue 24 Sep | 6.00pm | Riverside Studios | £13, £ 11 conc., £6.50 under 25s

MEMORY AND UTOPIA

In 2023, SEMINCI, Valladolid International Film Week, created "Memory and Utopia", a section conceived to reflect on the History of Cinema, a space to rediscover important works that, for various circumstances, remain outside the canon. Presented in recently restored copies, they should help reinvigorating the importance of the filmic legacy and those institutions that preserve it.

"Memory and Utopia", made in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes, includes films that break with prejudices and show the nonconformity and the visionary quality of the cinematographic image. They also represent dreamlike and ghostly catalysts able to suggest and captivate audiences. By including the work of two pioneers, like the Spaniard Ana Mariscal and the Mexican Maite Landeta, this section questions the patriarchal perspective from which they histories of our cinemas have been written. Exactly as does Luis E. Parés' opera prima, *The First Look*, about the first cinema school in Spain.

In collaboration with SEMINCI and the Instituto Cervantes

LA PRIMERA MIRADA | The First Look

dir. Luis E. Parés, with Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, Pedro Casablanc | Spain | 2023 | 74 min | doc | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

In a country destroyed by a civil war and in the midst of a dictatorship a film school was created. Against any intention by the regime, it became a space of freedom. The dream only lasted fifteen years, but it changed forever the history of Spanish cinema giving some of its greatest directors: Juan Antonio Bardem, Luis García Berlanga, Carlos Saura, Víctor Erice, Basilio Martín Patino, José Luis Borau... The practice exercises of the students are still in the archives of the School. Parés makes a formidable exercise himself with the archival material helping understand the greatness of the dreams of those filmmaking students observing the modernisation process of a country ravaged by many traumas.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Sun 22 Sep | 4.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

EL CAMINO | The Road

dir. Ana Mariscal, with Julia Caba Alba, Maribel Martín, José Antonio Mejías, José Orjas, Asunción Balaguer | Spain | 1964 | 95 min | In Spanish with English subtitles

Based on Miguel Delibes' book by the same title, *El camino* tells the story of a boy who has to leave his small town to go and study in a city. In the hours preceding his departure he reminisces about his small town and its people. Influenced by Italian Neorealism, Ana Mariscal, who was also a popular actress and a writer, poignantly portrays daily life in a small town in the province of Avila. Although the town appears bucolic, Mariscal delves into the oppressive atmosphere of the regime, religion, self-righteous neighbors, and the lack of opportunities in post-war Spain. The film faced censorship and was sadly forgotten for many years. Nevertheless, it was part of the Cannes Classics program in 2021 in its restored version.

Sun 22 Sep | 2.00pm | Ciné Lumière I | £15, £13 conc.

TROTACALLES | Streetwalker

dir. Matilde Landeta, with Miroslava, Ernesto Alonso, Elda Peralta, Isabela Corona | Mexico | 1951 | 101 min | cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles

In Mexico City, sisters Maria and Elena reunite after several years apart, only to find themselves competing for the affection of Rodolfo, a manipulative pimp. Elena, seeking an escape from her uneventful marriage to an elderly banker, falls into Rodolfo's arms. Meanwhile, Maria, supported by a close-knit group of fellow sex workers, navigates the challenges posed by exploitative clients and her unscrupulous pimp. Matilde Landeta was one of the few women working behind the camera in Mexican cinema for many years. Her *Trotacalles* is a story of female solidarity in a world where women are either trophies or exploited. Although Landeta aimed for a realistic depiction, production requirements led the film to take on a more melodramatic tone.

Sun 22 Sep | 7.00pm | Ciné Lumière II | £15, £13 conc.